

The Dogs Who Saved Their Master

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Hunter: Hello everyone. I'm a hunter. These are my dogs, Four-Eyes, Bear Killer, Long Tooth, and Holds Fast.

[Dogs bark in unison]

Hunter: We just found the tracks of a mysterious animal, and we're going to follow them.

[Hunter looks at dogs]

Hunter: Alright you doggies! Let's go hunting!

[Dogs bark in unison and follow hunter as he moves across stage. Hunter indicates tracks of a strange animal.]

[Dogs whimper and growl in fear. They try to lead the hunter away.]

Long Tooth: These tracks are dangerous. We should turn back.

Bear Killer: I smell danger in the air. We should stop.

Hunter: Nonsense! You guys are the best hunters in the whole world! I'm sure you can take care of whatever made the tracks. Besides, I'm curious.

[Hunter walks on. Dogs reluctantly follow]

[Hunter and dogs walk until they find a place where the monster lives. Monster emerges and they start to fight.]

Hunter: Oh my god!!! What the heck is that... that... that... THING!?!?!? [Shoots at monster but misses all of his shots.] Oh God. I'M OUTTA AMMO!!!

[Hunter collapses to the ground in fear]

Four-Eyes: Hunter, you have been kind to us for many years. Now it is time for us to return that debt. Run away quickly. We will try to hold the beast here.

[Hunter nods and runs off stage.]

[Dogs and monster fight until Bear Killer is killed by the monster. Dogs retreat, taking Bear Killer's body with them. Monster runs off in the direction of the hunter]

Long Tooth: We must protect the hunter. I will run ahead and tell him to keep running. You should track the monster.

[Dogs separate and go off-stage. Hunter emerges again and collapses on the ground in exhaustion.]

Hunter: I can't go any more! [Hears a growl from in the distance] What am I going to do?

[Dogs appear on stage and go to the hunter.]

Four-Eyes: Hunter, the monster has killed one of my brothers, Bear Killer. You must run back to the village. My brothers and I will try to hold it back.

Hunter: I will do as you say, good doggy. [Hunter runs off-stage.]

[Barks and growls from the dogs and monster are heard off-stage. Monster suddenly appears on stage with two dogs attacking it.]

[Dogs and monster fight until Long Tooth dies. Dogs retreat and monster follows the hunter again.]

Hunter: I'm so tired! How am I supposed to keep running?

[Four-Eyes and Holds Fast appear on stage.]

Four-Eyes: Hunter, you must keep running. Long Tooth is dead, slain by that monster. You must keep running or else our sacrifice will mean nothing.

[Hunter nods, pats dogs' heads, and runs off stage]

[Monster appears again and attacks dogs. It kills Holds Fast and Four-Eyes retreats. Monster chases Hunter off-stage.]

[Hunter appears on stage again and collapses. He does not stir. Four-Eyes appears on stage and wakes Hunter up.]

Four-Eyes: Hunter, you must run. I am the only one left now, and the monster comes close.

Hunter: Four-Eyes, I am weary from all of this running. I cannot run anymore.

[Four-Eyes licks Hunter's feet]

Four-Eyes: Hunter, by licking your feet, I have given you new strength. It is part of our medicine. Now, you must run quickly. I will do my best to stop the monster. However, I have one thing to ask of you.

[Hunter nods.]

Hunter: Ask anything and I will try to do it.

Four-Eyes: If you escape, please come back and gather the bones of us to give us a proper burial. Also, please take care of my wife. She is currently owned by the heavy-footed one in your village that does not know how to hunt. If you care for my wife, you may see my brothers and me again.

Hunter: Thank you, Four-Eyes. I will do as you say.

[Four-Eyes moves off-stage and Hunter runs towards his village again. Monster suddenly appears and starts to attack Hunter, but Four-Eyes appears and attacks monster.]

Hunter: Oh! There's my village!

[Hunter runs into village and tells villagers what happened]

Hunter: And then the monster killed my poor dog! And then.....

[Suddenly, a cry from Four-Eyes splits the air. Villagers run back to their houses in fear.]

[Hunter takes a party of men back along the trail next morning.]

Hunter: Look! It's my poor dog Four-Eyes..... We must take his bones with us for burial.

[After a while]

Hunter: [Gasps] It is the body of poor Holds Fast!

[After a while]

Hunter: Oh no. Poor Long Tooth.

[After a while]

Hunter: Here we are. This is where we first met the monster. And where poor Bear Killer met his death.

[Hunter and his party return to village. After burying the bones of his dogs, the Hunter goes to house of Heavy-Foot.]

Hunter: Heavy-Foot, I would like to trade you this old bear skin for your dog.

Heavy-Foot: Hmm... [Thinks for a moment] Very well. You may have her.

[Hunter returns home and cares for Four-Eyes' wife. After a while, the dog has puppies.]

Hunter: Oh look! Puppies!

[One puppy, who looks like Four-Eyes, looks at the Hunter and barks/woofs.]

SCENE